

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 79 (cancelled)

80 (Currently amended). A device ~~for compacting cancellous bone~~ comprising a wall made from a flexible material resistant to abrasion by cancellous bone, the wall peripherally defining an interior space and including an expandable region preformed with a normally expanded shape outside bone, the expandable region being expandable beyond its normally expanded shape to reach an inflation volume sized and configured for compacting cancellous bone,

the expandable region having proximal and distal ends,

the expandable region further having a first expanded section having an interior cross-sectional area adjacent the proximal end, a second expanded section having an interior cross-sectional area adjacent the distal end, and a third section having an interior cross-sectional area located between the first and second expanded sections,

when in the normally expanded shape and at the inflation volume, the interior cross-sectional area of the third section being less than the interior cross-sectional area of either the first or second expanded sections, and

the first expanded section, the second expanded section, and the third expanded section further having, respectively, a first preformed average wall thickness, a second preformed average wall thickness, and a third preformed average wall thickness, and

when in the normally expanded shape and at the inflation volume, the third average wall thickness being greater than either the first average wall thickness or the second average wall thickness.

81 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 80

wherein the expandable region, when expanded beyond its normally expanded shape to reach a given inflation volume, presents a maximum diameter less than a sphere expanded to an equal inflation volume.

82 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 80

wherein the expandable region includes a further expanded shape, outside bone, having a diameter greater than the normally expanded shape.

83 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 82

wherein the expandable region has a further expanded shape inside bone that substantially corresponds to the further expanded shape outside bone.

84 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 80

wherein the expandable region is essentially cylindrical.

85 (Currently amended). A device according to claim 80

wherein the expandable region expands in a non-spherical manner.

86 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 80

wherein the expandable region expands in an essentially cylindrical manner.

87 (Currently amended). A device ~~for manipulating bone~~ comprising

a preformed an expandable structure preformed with a normally expanded shape and being expandable beyond its normally expanded shape to a reach an inflation volume sized and configured for manipulating bone, the structure having a wall material peripherally defining an interior space, the wall material being resistant to abrasion by cancellous bone,

the structure having a proximal and a distal end,

the structure further having a first expandable region located near the distal end and a second expandable region located proximally of the first expandable region, the first and second expandable regions separated by a third region of the structure, the third region having a reduced cross-sectional area as compared to the cross-sectional areas of the first and second regions when the structure is in the normal expanded shape and at the inflation volume, and

the first expandable region, the second expandable region, and the third expandable region further having, respectively, a first preformed average wall thickness, a second preformed average wall thickness, and a third preformed average wall thickness, and

the third average wall thickness being greater than either the first average wall thickness or the second average wall thickness when the structure is in the normal expanded shape and at the inflation volume.

88 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 87

wherein the wall material of the first expandable region substantially surrounds a first maximum cross-sectional area of the interior space, the wall material of the second expandable region substantially surrounds a second maximum cross-sectional area of the interior space, and the wall material of the third region substantially surrounds a minimum cross-sectional area of the

interior space, the first and second maximum cross-sectional areas each being larger than the minimum cross-sectional area.

89 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 87
wherein the wall material comprises polyurethane.

90 (Currently amended). A device ~~for compacting cancellous bone~~ comprising
a wall made from a flexible material resistant to abrasion by cancellous bone, the wall peripherally defining an interior space and including ~~a preformed~~ an expandable region preformed with a normally expanded shape and being expandable beyond its normally expanded shape to a reach an inflation volume sized and configured for compacting cancellous bone,

the expandable region having proximal and distal ends,

the expandable region further having a first expanded section adjacent the distal end, a second expanded section located proximally of the first expanded section, and a third section located between the first and second expanded sections,

wherein the average outer diameter of the third section is less than the average outer diameter of either of the first or second expanded sections when the structure is in the normal expanded shape and at the inflation volume, and

the first expandable section ~~region~~, the second expandable section ~~region~~, and the third expandable section ~~region~~ further having, respectively, a first preformed average wall thickness; a second preformed average wall thickness, and a third preformed average wall thickness, and

the third average wall thickness being greater than either the first average wall thickness or the second average wall thickness when the structure is in the normal expanded shape and at the inflation volume.

91 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 90

wherein the expandable region expands in response to introduction of a flowable material into the interior space.

92 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 80

wherein the expandable region is preformed by the application of heat and pressure.

93 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 87

wherein the expandable structure is preformed by the application of heat and pressure.

94 (Previously presented). A device according to claim 90

wherein the expandable region is preformed by the application of heat and pressure.